

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request consideration and allowance of the above-identified application including the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

Claims 1-23 are pending in the application, claims 22 and 23 being newly added.

Applicants amended the specification to correct minor clerical and grammatical errors and such that it has the preferred section headings. No new matter has been added.

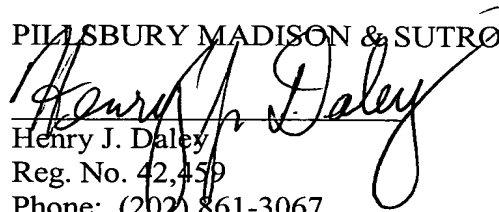
Applicants amended the claims at Item 17 of form PAT-102 to eliminate all multiple dependent claims prior to fee calculation, thus reducing the fees. Applicants further amended the claims with this Preliminary Amendment to correct minor informalities, to ensure that none recites any means-plus-function limitation and to ensure that they are definite in accordance with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

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A prompt and favorable Action on the merits is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

PILLSBURY MADISON & SUTRO LLP



Henry J. Daley

Reg. No. 42,459

Phone: (202) 861-3067

HJD:emg
1100 New York Ave., N.W.
Ninth Floor, East Tower
Washington, D. C. 20005-3918
Tel. (202) 861-3000
Fax: (202) 822-0944

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